

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No: 37697/0002

In re patent application of

Edward W. MERRILL *et al.*

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: Concurrently herewith

For: Radiation and Melt Treated Ultra High Molecular Weight
Polyethylene Prosthetic Devices

4/A
D.G.
1-29-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, please replace the text at lines 3-10 with --

X
This application is a
continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/572,324, filed May 18, 2000, ^{now abandoned} which is a continuation
of U.S. Serial No. 08/798,638, filed February 11, 1997, ^{now abandoned} which is a continuation-in-part of
08/726,313, filed October 2, 1996, ^{now abandoned} which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No.
08/600,744, filed February 13, 1996, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,879,400. The
entire contents of each of the above-identified applications are hereby incorporated by
reference. --